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Distribution of yarn at subsidised rates to fishermen.

* 163 *Q.*—Sri T. ANANTA PAI (on behalf of Sri M. S. Mogral): Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government have stopped the distribution of yarn at subsidised rates to fishermen; and

(*b*) if so, why?

The Hon. Sri M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" (*a*) Yes, with effect from the current year (1953–54).

(*b*) From about the middle of 1952–53, on account of decontrol of yarn and its free availability in the open market at cheaper rates, there has been very little or no demand for yarn sold in the Fisheries Department Depots. The balance of the stocks acquired in 1952–53 is being sold out with considerable difficulty to fishermen or other outsiders according to demand. The Government of India have also declined to grant subsidy for this scheme for the current year. The scheme has therefore been closed."

Exclusion of small shops from the scope of the Shops and Establishments Act.

* 164 *Q.*—Sri K. R. VISWANATHAN: Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries and Labour be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government have finished consideration of the question of exemption of small shops employing less than 4 or 5 persons from the operation of the Madras Shops and Establishments Act; and

(*b*) if so, the nature of their decision?

The Hon. Dr. U. KRISHNA RAO :—" (*a*) No, Sir.

" (*b*) Does not arise."

Sri K. R. VISWANATHAN :—" Are the Government aware that there is a large volume of opinion against the exemption of these small shops from the operation of this Act? "

The Hon. Dr. U. KRISHNA RAO :—" We are trying to ascertain public opinion in this matter. We have referred this to all Municipalities and Class I Panchayats for their opinion because we feel they may represent public opinion. We have not received replies from all of them. We shall consider the question as soon as we get the replies."

Sri M. PALANIYANDI :—" பஞ்சாயத்துகளுக்கும் முனிசிபாலிடிகளுக்கும் அனுப்பியது போல் இந்த ரிபோர்ட்டை பொதுமக்கள் சார்பாக வேறு யாருக்காவது அனுப்பி இருக்கிறார்களா? "

The Hon. Dr. U. KRISHNA RAO :—" I suppose that the municipalities and the panchayats represent '*Podu Makkal*' also."

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SRI M. KALYANASUNDARAM :—" தொழிலாளர்களுடைய அபிப்பிராயத்தைத் தெரிந்துக்கொள்ள தொழில் சங்கங்களுக்கு அந்த ரிப்போர்ட்டை அனுப்பப்பட்டிருக்கிறதா என்று கேட்க ஆசைப்படுகிறேன்."

THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO :—" The demand was made by the labourers concerned and, therefore, we have to get the opinion of others."

SRI S. RAMALINGAM :—" சிறிய வியாபாரிகளுக்கும் இந்த ரிப்போர்ட்டை, அவர்களுடைய ஆலோசனையைக் கேட்பதற்காக, அனுப்பி இருக்கிறார்களா ? "

THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO :—" They also made a similar request and, therefore, we are not consulting them."

Government Milk Factory, Madras.

* 165 *Q.*—SRI K. ARANGANATHAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether any committee was constituted to enquire into the working of the Government Milk Factory, Madras, and if so, what the findings of the committee are; and

(*b*) whether the Government will be pleased to place a copy of the report of the said committee on the table of the House?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" (*a*) Yes. The main recommendations of the Committee about the Government Milk Factory are that it should be run by the Government on modified lines and that it should manufacture 'toned milk' as against 'reconstituted milk' now manufactured. The Committee's report is an exhaustive one and the recommendations can be broadly grouped as follows :—

Grade I. Regarding the Government Milk Factory.

Grade II. Regarding the Aynavaram Milk Supply Union.

Grade III. Regarding the formation of Milk Colonization Scheme.

Grade IV. Regarding other general problems such as appointment of Milk Commissioner, purchase and distribution of milk powder by Government, etc.

" (*b*) Government are considering the report and the point raised by the member will also be considered and a decision taken as soon as possible."

SRI S. DEIVASIGAMANY :—" May I know what was the loss incurred by Government in running this Milk Factory? "

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" I do not think there was any loss."

SRI K. ARANGANATHAN :—" I know the contractors are supplying the milk powder. Why should not the Government straightway import the milk powder? "